DUPL

Ecclesia Plantanda

A monthly message to the home missionary family of the Board of American Missions. United Lutheran Church in America, 231 Madison Ave., New York 16, N. Y.

Volume XVIII | OCTOBER, 1953 | No. 8

Canada Board Meeting

Ideal fall weather, heartwarming attention to details of hospitality by local Board member J. Arnt Loa, an accommodating hotel, and most efficient presiding, all worked together to make the September 1953 meeting of the Board of American Missions a happy and inspiring one. The place was Ottawa, Canada, and the hotel the Chateau Laurier. The dates were September 9 and 10, and the presiding officer Vice-President H. Reed Shepfer. He pushed the proceedings through so fast that the stenographer Miss Marion Whitman could hardly keep track of the items that were before her in the reports from the divisional and standing committees.

Here are some of the things the Board did: heard reports on 55 field surveys, of which it approved for occupancy 19, assigned to synods for further investigation 13 and for surveillance 6, declared 9 no field at present, gave mission status to congregations already existing in 4, raised three from investigation to approval for occupancy and abandoned activity in one where there had been a sudden decline in population.

It learned of eight new congregations organized, with an average of 82 charter members and 18 which had attained strength enough with board aid to call their own pastors. Mission developers had been placed in enough new fields to bring the total under development to 57.

The Board issued calls to 9 men to become new mission developers, toward the 62 approved fields that were awaiting occupancy.

It approved church extension loans totalling $345,400 and grants of $5,700, for 20 parsonages, 9 lots, 8 churches and 4 house-chapels or other temporary meeting places. It learned of the coming of a new missionary to the Virgin Islands in the person of the Rev. Gerald C. Wise to replace the Rev. Clarence G. Schnorr, who resigned, and of a vacancy in Puerto Rico due to the resignation of the Rev. Curtis Derrick, of the return of two clinical year seminarians and their replacement by two others, and authorized the engagement of Mrs. Helena Minneman of Mont Clare, Pa., to fill in at the Queen Louise Home, Frederiksted, V. I., during the convalescence of Sister Edith Prince.

In the field of mountain missions it learned of progress toward a new parsonage at Konnarock, and a leave of absence for Sister Sophia, who will spend a year working in the new defense areas in Labrador!

An extra feature to the meeting was an address by the Rev. Francis A. Shearer, Secretary of Inner Missions for the Board

The finance committee reported sufficient funds to fulfill all commitments for mission operations to the end of 1953, provided full apportionment receipts come in as budgeted, but cautioned against entering more new fields until assured of more funds than the budget proposed for 1954 provides for. To carry on all the work now undertaken, even allowing for all the reductions in aid scheduled at the end of this year, will require all but approximately $45,000 of 1954 funds now in sight. That will mean only 15 new fields in 1954. To reach the Board's goal of one a week $100,000 more must be received.

As a measure to provide such funds the promotion committee proposed that the Board members make personal efforts to induce the stronger congregations of the Church which have done their full share toward general benevolences to sponsor specific home mission fields by contributing $1,000 a year toward their support. This the Board discussed at great length, but without a single objection to the plan, and finally adopted it enthusiastically and unanimously. (See details elsewhere in this issue). The general consensus was that the spirit of this meeting was the best in the memory of those present.

* * * *

Board's Betty State L. L. President

Miss Elizabeth Fenner, efficient bookkeeper in the comptroller's office of the Board of American Missions was elected president of the New Jersey State Luther League at its convention at Wagner College in September. Her home is in Teaneck, New Jersey. Telephone number? Uh-uh. The office needs her!

Deaths

The Rev. Seymour Cooper, who was serving a self-reliant congregation at Fisherville, Ont., died on June 24th. Though not technically a missionary his work there had all the marks of home mission effort except financial aid from the Board. The congregation of 100 members just a few months old had on July 5th dedicated a $20,000 church.

The Rev. Donald W. Endter died after a lingering illness on September 24, 1953. He had been pastor of St. Paul's Church, Los Angeles, California since December 6, 1948, and brought it from a communing membership of 98 to over 150, meantime guiding its relocation to Monterey Park. He was graduated from Hamma divinity school in 1945, entering immediately into the service of the Board of American missions as mission developer at Phoenix, Arizona, where Faith Church which he served in its early years became self supporting as to salary a year ago. His work has been effective in winning souls and building solid congregations. He is mourned by his widow and two children.

* * * *

Pastor Clayton W. Sugg of New Milford, N. J., reports that the number of accessions from Roman Catholicism outnumbers 8 to 1 the number of Lutherans lost to that church in his congregation. The "Voice of America" learning of the meeting of his Lutheran congregation in the same school house where a Catholic group and a Jewish group met sent reporters and broadcast the news of the three faiths meeting in the same building as an example of good Americanism.

* * * *

Missionary pastor Charles A. Miley of St. Paul's, Sacramento, Calif., reports that one class of six year old youngsters has to meet in a quarter of a room where total dimensions are 24 x 25 feet. He says, "I marvel at the excellent job our teachers are doing under most trying circumstances."

* * * *

Trinity Church, Fort Erie, Ont., dedicated a new $40,000 church on July 14th.

About Quarterly Reports

Missionary Eric Reble of Bridgeport, Ontario seems really to appreciate the requirement of making quarterly reports. He writes in his "Parish Bond":

In this issue I thought you would be interested in hearing about my quarterly report for the first 3 months. All pastors of home mission congregations are required to make these to the Board of American Missions of our United Lutheran Church. Home Mission congregations are those congregations receiving financial aid from the Board until they are strong enough to be self-supporting. What aid does St. Paul's, Bridgeport receive from the Board? It pays $1080.00 towards my salary for 1953 and loaned $6,000. towards the building of the parsonage in 1952. When it comes time to build our new church, again the Board will be ready to make a substantial loan. The Board supports 350 such Home Missions congregations. Where does it get its money to carry on this work? From the red side of your church envelope. The red or benevolent side is just as important as the black, or current side.

But let's get back to the quarterly report. As I mentioned, it takes in the first 3 months of the year and therefore does not include the Good Friday or Easter services. During the first quarter 21 adults and 24 children were received into the congregation, while we lost 2 adults by transfer. This made a confirmed membership of 239 and a baptized membership of 332. (Since then, 12 adults were confirmed at Easter giving us a confirmed membership of 251). The average attendance during the first quarter was 147. The average attendance at the Lenten services was 96. The attendances at the services has been very encouraging. The highest morning attendance during the first quarter was 184, the lowest 122. 98 communed in the first quarter.

The receipts in the first quarter, both current and benevolence, were good, much higher than in previous years. The balance in the current treasury at the end of the first quarter was $829.56, in the new church building fund, $1094.10. Benevolence receipts, including Lenten and L.W.A. offerings totalled $781.65. Again these financial figures are very encouraging. Keep it up! That concludes our report for the first quarter. In July we will give a summary for the second quarter.

True to his promise Pastor Reble reported for the second quarter 29 accessions and 184 communions. Average attendance was 155.

* * * *

Brevard, N. C., the Rev. David F. Cooper:

Church building used for around 48 different services and meetings during the quarter.

Pastor conducted radio devotions January 26-31.

Broadcast morning services during the month of February.

Organized Cub Scout Pack under our sponsorship, with 4 dens, 32 boys during quarter.

More Fields Entered:

A careful check of the lists of new fields reported in these columns since January 1 shows that three were entered late in 1952 and three other had been listed twice. That reduces the total reported in the September issue to 35. To them may now be added:

Orientals on West Coast, April 1, Dr. L. S. G. Miller.

Levittown, Pa., May 1, by the Rev. Chas. E. Fair.

Starkville, Miss., Jan. 15, by the Rev. H. A. Wolff.

Pleasant Hills, Pa., May 20, by the Rev. Thos. L. Guinn.

Wilmington, Ohio, June 7, by the Rev. W. S. Pittinger.

Grand Prairie, Texas, June 15, by the Rev. Hugo Rathkamp.

Joliet, Ill., Sept. 15 by the Rev. J. J. Lippoldt.

Lake Charles, La., by the Rev. W. D. Galbraith.

Decatur, Ga., Oct. 1, by the Rev. Vance Daniel.

Hamilton, Ont., (Lithuanians), Oct. 1, by Prof. M. A. Kavolis.

Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 1, by the Rev. Wm. H. Knoderer.

Hickory, N. C., by the Rev. Chas. R. Patterson.

This brings the total to date for 1953, to 47.

* * * *

Congregations Organized

January 25, Latvian, Grand Rapids, Mich., by the Rev. Janis V. Lazsa with 147 members. (Hitherto unreported.)

September 13, 1953, St. Mark's, Sullivan Island, South Carolina, with 62 members.

September 27, South Bend, Ind., by the Rev. G. W. Schuette with 54 charter members.

October 4, Joliet, Ill., by the Rev. J. J. Lippoldt, with 82 charter members.

This brings the total to 32 thus far in 1953, with 16 more definitely scheduled before the end of the year. It is quite probable that the total will reach 50, or possibly 52.

* * * *

Missionary Charles L. Strubel at Holy Cross mission, Denver, reports 10 adult baptisms and 13 confirmations in the second quarter. He says "our parish is the world!"

Important Request

Only one Board Missionary answered the published request in the May issue of "Ecclesia Plantanda" that they all have endorsements written into their automobile liability insurance policies to protect the Board in case of accident. Such endorsement costs nothing and may save the Board considerable money in case of a suit against one of the Board Missionaries. Please notify the Board that you have attended to this.

Call First Own Pastors

Five more young congregations have attained sufficient strength to call with Board aid their own pastors:

New Milford, N. J., their organizer, the Rev. C. W. Sugg, effective September 1.

Allentown, Pa., St. Timothy, Mission developer B. R. Stauffer, effective September 1.

Baltimore, Md., St. Andrew's, Mission developer P. F. Luebbe, July 1.

Baltimore, Md., Gethsemane, Mission developer J. W. Eastlack, October 1.

Grand Island, N. Y., the Rev. W. A. Rowen, October 1, 1953.

* * * *

Among the 23 adults received into the Lihue Lutheran Church in Hawaii were representatives of all of the national groups living in the islands. The congregation is proud of its cosmopolitanism. Pastor Allport reports enrollments of close to 400 in the daily vacation schools conducted in the five outlying communities.

* * * *

President Eduardo Roig of the Caribbean synod and Sister Edith Prince, assistant matron of the Queen Louise Home in the Virgin Islands, are both recovering from serious operations. The former is able to carry on his work but Sister Edith will have to rest for several months.

* * * *

Secretary Knudsen of the division of English Missions spent a busy Palm Sunday attending the organization services of two congregations. If he could have spread himself a little thinner he might have attended those of the five that were formed that day.

Ten Commandments for Ministers' Wives

(By Religious News Service)

(1) Thou shalt have no other interests more important to thee than thy husband.
(2) Thou shalt not make unto thee any church clique or anything resembling it.
(3) Thou shalt not take thy husband's name in vain.
(4) Remember thy intimate family matters, to keep them secret.
(5) Honor thy husband by keeping thy place, that his years of ministry in the cause of God may be long.
(6) Thou shalt not gossip.
(7) Thou shalt not be a burden on others.
(8) Thou shalt not appear untidy.
(9) Thou shalt not covet a taste beyond thy husband's income.
(10) Thou shalt not covet thy lay sister's, or fellow minister's house, furniture, car, or whatsoever thy sister may have.

Board Members Offer Services

Invite Strong Congregations to Sponsor Home Mission Churches

In an upsurge of enthusiastic zeal for the continuance of the Board's advance into unchurched areas, threatened by high costs and inadequate funds, the members of the Board at its Ottawa meeting in September voted unanimously to do personal work to induce the stronger congregations of the ULCA to give $1,000 a year toward salary aid for home mission churches. Thrilled by the record of entrance into 54 fields in 1952 and 47 in 1953, resulting in the organization of 41 new churches in 1952 and 45 this year, challenged by the list of 57 fields now under development and 62 approved but awaiting mission developers, but sobered by the fact that only $45,000 will be available out of receipts now foreseeable in 1954 for new work, permitting only 15 new fields to be entered, they decided to do something about it.

For many years a few congregations have given special funds for specified home mission fields. There was a conviction that if the need were called to the attention of others the number could be increased to 100. The total cost of bringing a young congregation to self support is $15,000. That averages over a ten year period $1,500 a year. The members thought that $1,000 a year would be enough to entitle a contributing congregation to be assigned a home mission and to call its missionary the sponsor's own home mission pastor. 100 such sponsor congregations would provide $100,000. The cost of entering a new field is something over $3,000 the first year. $100,000 would permit entrance into 33 new fields, thus continuing the rate of progress of past years by bringing the 15 allowed by the budget up to 48. The Board has faith that the Church would provide sufficient funds in future years to enable it to nurture them to self support.

A study of the benevolence records throughout the church revealed 276 churches that contributed their full share toward the ULCA budget in sums of approximately $5,000 and over. The Board members have this list, and each one will see from 12 to 24 of the pastors and present the opportunity for sponsorship. A new piece of literature has been prepared to set forth this program, and is available to all who ask for it.

* * * *

Thirty-four interested prospective members attended the preliminary meeting looking toward the organization of a church at Pleasant Hills, Pa. They adopted the name Prince of Peace. The first service was held on August 30th in the Borough Hall. President Walter A. Brand of the Borough Council is chairman of the mission's steering committee. The Rev. Thomas L. Guinn is the mission developer.

GOOD FLORIDA START

The sixty people who attended the initial service of the United Lutheran mission in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, at the invitation of Mission Developer Lynn Wilfrid.

Radio and TV

Pastor John H. Schultz of Atonement, Minneapolis, conducts a weekly radio interview program entitled "Leaders in Religion" over KSTP, the NBC outlet in the Twin Cities.

Pastor William B. Schaeffer of Holy Trinity mission, North Augusta, S. C., is a member of a panel on the "Ask your Minister" radio program every Sunday night. The program is heard over the whole central Savannah river area.

The Rev. Joseph M. O'Morrow of Holy Trinity, Columbus, Ohio, held a week of TV programs. Good reception was reported for as far away as 100 miles.

Pastor A. F. Conrad of St. Peter's (loan mission), Ottawa, was influential in bringing about the first national observance with a religious content over the network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. This was because of a request in which he as the president of the Ottawa council of churches made of the secretary of state that a religious tone be given to the broadcast concerning the coronation of Queen Elizabeth. Because of the difficulty as between Protestants and Catholics two separate observances were broadcast, one by Catholics and one by Protestants.

* * * *

Pastor Hamme of Boise was chosen by the Chamber of Commerce of his city to broadcast the Easter sermon. The announcer and the engineer of the local radio station are both members of Redeemer Lutheran Church.

* * * *

In the relatively new church building at Mason City, Ia., a loan mission, new windows have been installed showing in art glass "The Scheme of Salvation".

Field Notes

There have been several changes in the missionary force in the West Indies. The resignation of Pastor Clarence G. Schnorr brought about his replacement by Pastor Gerald C. Wise. Two internes from Chicago seminary, Dale W. Hultgren and Frederick D. Jacobi, have returned for their senior years and have been replaced by Students Edward W. Amend and Paul W. Schubert.

* * * *

Zion mission, Penn Township, Pa., is actively fostering the development of a new congregation in the neighboring field known as the Hamill Road area. Pastor Gerhard tells his congregation that "Zion church council has offered to help in any way possible. There will be opportunity for work and gifts to the new mission when it begins services".

* * * *

Missionary Paul J. Baughman of Gloria Dei, Kelso, Wash., reports that the Brotherhood showed a film on the life of Jesus as a community-wide project. Four hundred people attended. Although this was not a money raising scheme yet the freewill offering netted over $100. The proceeds were given to the home mission loan fund of the Pacific synod.

* * * *

Missionary Robert Arnold at Waco, Texas, reports that out of the first 656 calls he made he found 662 prospective members. Fifty of them were unchurched with backgrounds in conservative denominations (no Southern Baptists included in this group). Six were former Lutherans and 6 belonged to sects.

* * * *

The Rev. Cecil C. Helmly conducted the first radio devotions at the new station WSLM in Louisville, Miss.

Special Liberality

St. John's, Hagerstown, Md., contributed more than $1,000 toward the new mission Middleburg Pike.

Hope church, Toledo, sent two-thirds of its Sunday school Easter offering in the sum of $100 for help toward the new work being done in that city by Board Missionary Youngblood.

St. John's, Knoxville, Tenn., contributed over $1,100 toward the new congregation being developed in that city.

Eight out-of-town friends each gave $100 toward the new St. John's mission in Orlando, Florida. Others raised the total to over $2,000.

St. Luke's, Silver Spring, Md., has contributed another $500 gift toward Resurrection mission in the Wheaton-Kensington area of suburban, Washington. This is the fifth such gift in a total amount of over $3,000.

United church, Santa Ana, Calif., for its own work raised over $20,000 for a two year period. The largest single gift was $1,040.

Roselawn church, Cincinnati, in its second campaign for the building fund raised $16,800. Their new church is under construction.

Calvary church on the outskirts of Minneapolis was given a three acre church site in the heart of a new housing development of 300 homes built last summer.

St. Andrew's at Van Nuys, Calif., announced an effort to secure gifts or memorials in the form of pews for its new church. Within less than one month all pews needed for the nave were donated by members of the congregation.

The synod of the Northwest at its May convention voted unanimously to strive to double its benevolent giving in 1954. This action was a substitute for one which proposed a special campaign for $250,000 which was to be divided equally between Northwestern Seminary and the Board of American Missions. The latter action may be revived at the 1954 convention of the synod.

Atonement Lutheran Church, Asbury Park, N. J., donated the pews for St. Paul's mission at Beachwood.

A Latvian artist, Mr. Leonids Linauts, designed the windows for the Emmanuel mission at Stoney Creek, Md. The Rev. Valdis Mezezers is the pastor.

Redeemer at Fircrest, Tacoma, Wash., raised $12,500 toward its new church over the Easter weekend without any professional help.

Members of Zion church, Franklin, Ky., recently given mission status and now served by the Rev. Virgil Yohe, donated 1,000 hours of work in remodeling the house-chapel. The president of the congregation and his wife drove to Osmer, S. D., to get chancel furniture and haul it back, all at a total cost of $125.

Gloria Dei, (loan mission), Cleveland, Ohio, recently burned mortgages totaling $27,000 covering payment in full of the parsonage, four lots and organ and a note to the Board of American Missions. The pastor is the Rev. H. G. Blickensderfer.

The first every member visitation held by St. Stephen's Church of Monona, Wis., produced 158 pledges, all of which include benevolence. The total annual amount pledged for current expense was $4,430 and for benevolence $2,173. A separate visitation for the Sunday school was planned but is not yet reported. The congregation was organized by Synodical Missionary D. H. Shelhart on April 12, 1953 and has called Seminarian Waldemar H. Nelson of Northwestern Seminary.

* * * *

In connection with the renovation of the chancel of Mount Olive church, Mukwonago, Wis., used chancel furniture given them by St. John's Elkhorn and a communion rail and carpet by St. Luke's, Waukesha, together with new items given by members of the congregation, all contributed to its new beauty. A great deal of labor was provided by the members of the mission church under the leadership of Pastor Paul Clement.

* * * *

An unusual gift was that of a building 20 x 40 feet from University church, Seattle, to the new Prince of Peace mission served by Board Missionary R. O. Luke. It is serving as temporary worship quarters.

* * * *

Missionary pastor William A. Diehl of Skokie, Ill., reports close to $20,000 subscribed toward the proposed new church building.

A prospective member of the proposed new congregation in Montgomery, Ala., gave up his definite plans to install an air-conditioning unit in his home in order to contribute the price of it to the fund being raised for a church building. Two children gave the money they were saving for a swing and a "jungle-jim" to start the building.

* * * *

St. Mark's church, Miami, Florida, a mission congregation not too old itself, contributed $100 toward the work at Homestead in which a new mission is being developed by Board Missionary John D. Sheppard. Missionary W. B. Weant is the pastor of St. Mark's.

* * * *

At the recent meeting of the Caribbean synod a gift of $150 recently transmitted for work among lepers on the islands was recognized with notice that contributions for that purpose would be welcomed annually in the future because of continuing vital need.

* * * *

Pastor Robert O. Scherch reports that Reformation church, Wichita, Kansas, less than a year old and therefore not apportioned by the synod, has gone well over what the apportionment would have been in its benevolence offerings.

* * * *

Mounds View mission in rural Ramsey County, Minn., has three of its spiritual sons studying for the Gospel ministry.

Help To Preserve Church In Changing Community

Courtesy, Chicago Sun-Times

Sister Grace Boehling (playing) and Sister Sheila Radtke at Wicker Park, Chicago Sunday school.

An ever increasing need for help to preserve older churches in center-city communities is apparent to the Board. It has placed deaconesses and other women workers in several such churches as an aid in adapting the congregations' programs to the needs of neighborhood people who have replaced the original constituencies. The work of Sister Grace with Pastor Malcolm D. Shutters won a feature article in the Chicago Sun Times of August 10, 1953.